



## FALL ARMYWORM TECH PRIZE

Originally from the Americas, fall armyworm (FAW) poses a serious threat to African food security. FAW outbreaks were first reported in West Africa in early 2016 and are now on the precipice of devastating food supplies across the continent, thus exacerbating global poverty and hunger. FAW attacks more than 80 different plants<sup>1</sup>. Agriculture experts estimate the pest could cause losses of 8.3 million to 20.6 million metric tons of maize in just 12 African maize-producing countries annually, which could feed 40.8 million to 101 million people.<sup>2</sup> FAW can also fly up to 1,600 kilometers in 30 hours, meaning it can easily migrate to surrounding farms and countries.<sup>3</sup>

As of April 2018, FAW has been identified in over 40 African countries. Given the spread and rate of the infestation, interventions are needed at a transnational level. Smallholder farmers and their advisors need improved access to immediate, accurate and actionable information on how to mitigate, identify and combat the fall armyworm. Digital technologies can be utilized in expanding the frontiers of information access in Africa. Increasingly available digital technologies, including sensors, geospatial imagery and data analytics, could be leveraged to help smallholder farmers gain useful advice and make informed decisions.



Feed the Future and its partners, Land O'Lakes International Development and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), are calling on innovators to develop or adapt digital tools and approaches that provide timely, context-specific information that enable smallholder farmers and those who support them to identify, treat, and track incidence of fall armyworm in Africa.

### Five prizes, totaling \$400,000, will be made as follows:

- One grand prize of **\$150,000**.
- Two awards of **\$75,000** to the next most promising solutions.
- Two up-and-comer awards of **\$50,000** to early stage developments.

### Timeline:



**Entries Open**  
28th March 2018



**Deadline for entries**  
14th May 2018



**Co-creation event**  
26th - 29th June 2018



**Award event**  
Sep/Oct 2018

1- ["Multi-pronged approach key for effectively defeating fall armyworm in Africa."](#) 28 April 2017, CIMMYT.

2- ["Fall Armyworm: Impacts and Implications for Africa Evidence Note \(2\), September 2017."](#) Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International.

3- ["Multi-pronged approach key for effectively defeating fall armyworm in Africa."](#) 28 April 2017, CIMMYT.

The co-creation event is a four-day workshop in Kampala, Uganda designed for 20 selected finalists to learn from experts, agricultural value chain stakeholders, smallholder farmers, and each other.

## Eligibility criteria

**Open to all** - We are open to solutions from individuals, groups, organizations and companies globally, particularly local innovators from Africa.

**Local applicability** - Though the call is global and solvers can come from all over the world, the solutions will be tested and applied in field contexts in Africa.

**Willingness to share learning** - All entrants need to demonstrate a willingness to share their experiences and learning to help establish a body of knowledge that can bring about a sustained change in smallholder farmer outreach, awareness, and action with respect to digital tools and plant health, as well as pest and disease management.

**Prototyping skills** - Applicants need to ensure they have the capacity to adapt their existing solution to address FAW, or, to develop a prototype of the solution within the prize time frame. Limited support will be provided to help achieve this, but applicants must be able to develop and test prototypes during the course of the prize, if selected.

**Intellectual property** - Any intellectual property in the submission entry must belong to the entrant. Entrants will retain the intellectual property and such intellectual property must be clearly marked as proprietary. It is the entrants' responsibility to ensure that they are not infringing on the intellectual property of others.

**Incomplete entries** - Entries will not be assessed if all required fields have not been completed. This applies to any stage of submission for the Prize and also relates to missing documentation that may have been requested.

**Applications in English** - Entries need to be submitted in English.

**USAID responsibility determination** - USAID will conduct a responsibility determination prior to the announcement of the award, to ensure that selected organization meets applicable U.S. laws, including regulations administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of Treasury.

## Judging criteria



### Criteria 1

Digital Tools



### Criteria 2

Actionable Information



### Criteria 3

Accessibility



### Criteria 4

Potential Impact



### Criteria 5

Market Potential



### Criteria 6

Adherence to Regulations, Privacy and Norms

## More info

**Deadlines and details:** <https://fallarmywormtech.challenges.org>

**Contact us:** [fawtechprize@nesta.org.uk](mailto:fawtechprize@nesta.org.uk)

**Engage:** #FallArmyworm

## Funding Partners

